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General Assembly

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 162
Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations

Letter dated 9 May 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 April 2011 sent to the President of the General Assembly and to you (see annex) to request the convening of a plenary debate of the General Assembly under agenda item 162 at the earliest possible date. The request for convening such a General Assembly plenary debate as contained in the annexed letter has received the support of the following 49 Member States: Albania, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 162.

(*Signed*) Thomas **Mayr-Harting**
Ambassador

11-33335 (E) 170511

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Annex to the letter dated 9 May 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We, the undersigned Permanent Representatives/Chargés d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Missions of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and Uruguay to the United Nations in New York, also on behalf of an additional number of members of the General Assembly (see attachment), request you kindly to convene a plenary debate of the General Assembly under agenda item 162, entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations" at the earliest possible date. Such a plenary debate seems to us a logical step in the light of your participation in last year's high-level meeting and your statement of 28 February 2011 before the Conference on Disarmament in which you noted that the Conference must be strengthened and overcome its logjam.

We are convinced that given the lack of progress during the first part of the Conference on Disarmament in 2011 such a General Assembly plenary debate would provide an important opportunity to maintain the necessary political momentum created by the high-level meeting on the work of the Conference on Disarmament of 24 September 2010. Such a plenary debate of the General Assembly would send an important political signal to the Conference on Disarmament that more intensified efforts and more flexibility are needed to allow for the immediate start of substantive work.

Functioning multilateral security institutions are a vital component of our security. The long-term deadlock of core disarmament forums such as the Conference on Disarmament poses a serious security problem. We cannot afford to wait any longer. A plenary debate of the General Assembly would provide a suitable platform to discuss in an inclusive manner, inter alia, possible future options and alternatives for solving the impasse of the Conference on Disarmament.

We, the undersigned Permanent Representatives/Chargés d'affaires a.i. stand ready for a meeting with you — if you so wish — in order to explain in more depth our request for convening a plenary debate of the General Assembly at the earliest possible date.

(*Signed*) Ferit **Hoxha**
Permanent Representative of Albania

(*Signed*) Thomas **Mayr-Harting**
Permanent Representative of Austria

(*Signed*) Jan **Grauls**
Permanent Representative of Belgium

(*Signed*) Rayko Strahilov **Raytchev**
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria

(*Signed*) Octavio **Errázuriz**
Permanent Representative of Chile

(*Signed*) Eduardo **Ulibarri**
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

(*Signed*) Ranko **Vilović**
Permanent Representative of Croatia

(*Signed*) Minas A. **Hadjimichael**
Permanent Representative of Cyprus

(*Signed*) David **Červenka**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic

(*Signed*) Jarmo **Vilnanen**
Permanent Representative of Finland

(*Signed*) Peter **Wittig**
Permanent Representative of Germany

(*Signed*) Anastassis **Mitsialis**
Permanent Representative of Greece

(*Signed*) Csaba **Kőrösi**
Permanent Representative of Hungary

(*Signed*) Anne **Anderson**
Permanent Representative of Ireland

(*Signed*) Cesare Maria **Ragaglini**
Permanent Representative of Italy

(*Signed*) Tsuneo **Nishida**
Permanent Representative of Japan

(*Signed*) Normans **Penke**
Permanent Representative of Latvia

(*Signed*) Christian **Wenaweser**
Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein

(*Signed*) Sylvie **Lucas**
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg

(*Signed*) Saiful Azam Martinus **Abdullah**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Malaysia

(*Signed*) Saviour F. **Borg**
Permanent Representative of Malta

(*Signed*) Claude **Heller**
Permanent Representative of Mexico

(*Signed*) Milorad **Šćepanović**
Permanent Representative of Montenegro

(*Signed*) Herman **Schaper**
Permanent Representative of Netherlands

(*Signed*) Jim **McLay**
Permanent Representative of New Zealand

(*Signed*) U. Joy **Ogwu**
Permanent Representative of Nigeria

(*Signed*) Morten **Wetland**
Permanent Representative of Norway

(*Signed*) Gonzalo **Gutiérrez**
Permanent Representative of Peru

(*Signed*) Libran N. **Cabactulan**
Permanent Representative of the Philippines

(*Signed*) Paweł **Herczyński**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Poland

(*Signed*) José Filipe **Moraes Cabral**
Permanent Representative of Portugal

(*Signed*) **Park** In-Kook
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea

(*Signed*) Alexandru **Cujba**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova

(*Signed*) Simona Mirela **Miculescu**
Permanent Representative of Romania

(*Signed*) Feodor **Starčević**
Permanent Representative of Serbia

(*Signed*) Juan Pablo **de Laiglesia**
Permanent Representative of Spain

(*Signed*) Mårten **Grunditz**
Permanent Representative of Sweden

(*Signed*) Paul **Seger**
Permanent Representative of Switzerland

(*Signed*) Norachit **Sinhaseni**
Permanent Representative of Thailand

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Permanent Representative of Turkey

(*Signed*) José Luis **Cancela**
Permanent Representative of Uruguay

Attachment

The following members of the General Assembly support the request to convene a plenary debate of the General Assembly under agenda item 162, entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations" at the earliest possible date: Bangladesh, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa and Ukraine.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 112 (c)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fifteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 11 May 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, and, in reference to the candidature of the Syrian Arab Republic for membership in the Human Rights Council for the term 2011-2014 in the election to be held on 20 May 2011, during the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly, has the honour to inform the latter that, as a result of the comprehensive reforms currently taking place in Syria and the national reprioritizing policy regarding the candidatures of the Syrian Arab Republic for various bodies of the United Nations system, and having consulted and coordinated with the Kuwaiti Government, the Syrian Government has decided to exchange its candidature for the Human Rights Council for the term 2011-2014 with the Kuwaiti candidature for the same body for the term 2013-2016. Consequently, the Syrian candidature for the Council will be for the term 2013-2016 instead of the term 2011-2014.

The Asian Group, in its meeting held on 11 May 2011, agreed to exchange the candidature of Syria with the candidature of Kuwait for the Human Rights Council, and endorsed the candidature of Kuwait for the Council for the term 2011-2014.

The Syrian Arab Republic was actively involved in the establishment of the Human Rights Council and the formulation of its mandate, and thus it is fully committed to making a further and sustained contribution to the independent work of the Council aimed at immunizing the latter against any irresponsible attempts at politicization. It attaches particular importance to its candidature for membership in the Council owing to the significance that it sees in the enhancement of the constructive international cooperation in the field of the protection of human rights, especially through its membership in the Council. The voluntary pledges and commitments expressed by the Syrian Arab Republic in its note verbale dated 1 March 2011 (A/65/784) are still valid for its candidature for the Council for the term 2013-2016.

The Permanent Mission of Syria also has the honour to kindly request the assistance of the President of the General Assembly in having the present letter circulated as document of the Assembly, under agenda item 112 (c).